



Space Observer

Friday, Dec. 20, 2002

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 46 No. 49



Photo by Joe Fischer

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Not coming home ...

Brig. Gen. Duane Deal
21st Space Wing Commander

Though it didn't involve one of our wing troops, the e-mail about a fellow Air Force member was quite sobering, especially at Christmas time:

"One of our troops won't be coming home: It is with great sorrow I must inform you of the tragic death of one our young Security Forces troops. She was killed in a Hummer accident at approximately 1600 local time yesterday. She was posted on a one-person patrol in Viper Land. She lost control of her vehicle, traveled off the hardened surface into a 3-foot high mound. The vehicle started to flip once or twice. She was thrown from the vehicle and the vehicle landed on top of her. Killed her instantly. No one else was hurt.

This AIC was TDY here from Ellsworth AFB, SD. She was only 20 years old. I cannot give you any other details of the accident or how/what could have hap-

pened until after the investigation is completed of this tragic accident.

Please remind all of your troops of the importance of vehicle safety.

*CMSgt, USAF, Security Forces Manager
363d Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron
Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia"*

Sobering. While we certainly don't wish to put a damper on the season at hand, a little dose of reality may actually enhance our enjoyment. Why? If this type of accident can happen to a young, alert troop in a Humvee, it could certainly happen to someone who's tired, who's been drinking, or is otherwise distracted in our communities. Making sure we remain aware could prevent a similar tragedy, which would certainly dampen the spirits of us all.

To quote the Security Forces Manager in the message, please remind all of your troops of the importance of vehicle safety, through the holidays and New Year.

Thanks for all you do, and happy holidays!



Photo by Joe Fischer

Happy Holidays from the 21st Space Wing Headquarters staff!

Action Line

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to the 21st Space Wing Commander – use it wisely! Try to resolve problems at the lowest level possible — with the person or activity, and then follow the chain of command.

Though it's not required, we ask that you leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you for clarifications, or if your response isn't printed. If you can't get satisfactory results, call 556-7777. Or you can fax your question to 556-7848.

Space A concerns

QUESTION: Can we keep the space available flight recording updated? We don't know what space available flights were flying on Saturday and Sunday, and I am sure there were some available Monday. The recording was not updated. I would appreciate it being updated because I use my space-available privilege to travel. Thank you.

ANSWER: Maintaining an accurate and updated flight recording is a primary customer service goal. On occasion, short-notice flight changes may prevent us from keeping the flight recording 100 percent up-to-date. Regarding weekend schedules, the Terminal operating hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,

Monday through Friday. Occasionally, one may see aircraft arriving and departing during a weekend; however, we only open the terminal to accommodate aircraft requiring cargo handling or space-required passengers. These missions are coordinated prior to arrival/departure, and personnel assigned to weekend and holiday standby duty work these aircraft. Flight schedules are not posted for weekend flights unless the flight is accommodating space-required passengers. It is important to note that, according to DoD 4515-13R, Chapter 6a, "DoD aircraft shall not be scheduled to accommodate space available passengers. No (or negligible) additional funds shall be expended, and no additional flying hours shall be scheduled to support this program." Generally, this means that you will not see an aircraft scheduled to move only space available passengers. Our best advice is that travelers always have a contingency plan when flying space-available, as one never knows if or when seats will be released. For further information, contact 2nd Lt. Matthew Vincent at 556-1505.

Commissary shelves

QUESTION: Why doesn't the Commissary keep the shelves stocked and have more cash registers open? It seems like no matter what time you

shop, most of the shelves are empty. I have shopped as early as 10 a.m. and have found empty shelves. At times, the check-out line is all the way back to the ice cream freezer and there are only about four or five cash registers open.

ANSWER: The Defense Commissary Agency and the Midwest Region are making diligent efforts to meet the needs of our customers. Your patronage is important to us, and we want you to know that we appreciate your business. A new store director for the Peterson Commissary has been appointed. She is taking action to correct deficiencies, to include proactive hiring of additional cashiers, training employees from other departments to assume cashier duties during peak periods, and personally reviewing the cashier schedule to ensure it is properly prepared.

She is also working to ensure shelves are stocked, and has requested help to evaluate the ordering and stocking problems so we can get Peterson Commissary back to number one. You should have already noticed some improvements in manning of cash registers, stocking, and displays. If you have other concerns, please call Lea Twigg, Peterson Commissary Store Director at 556-7765, or stop by her office and speak with her personally.



Space Observer

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A Moment in Time



■ On Dec. 22, 1964, the first flight of the USAF's SR-71 Blackbird, the world's fastest and highest flying aircraft (Mach 3+ and above 80,000 feet).

■ On Dec. 26, 1956, the first flight of the USAF's F-106 Delta Dart, still today the world's fastest single engine aircraft (Mach 2.4).

■ On Dec. 24, 1943, 650 B-17s and B-24s made the first major strike against German V-weapons sites.

Information courtesy of Staff Sgt. Trisha Morgan, 21st Space Wing History Office.

AFSPC astronaut tells space mission story

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Atlantis' 25th flight brought back an astronaut who shared stories of the International Space Station, his space mission, and space motion sickness to a crowd of Peterson members, at Air Force Space Command Headquarters, Monday.

Air Force astronaut Lt. Col. Rex Walheim flew 4.5 million miles aboard the STS-110 Atlantis on a mission to install a 43-foot Boeing S-Zero truss and robotic mobile rail transporter.

"The International Space Station is one of the biggest engineering projects undertaken in space, which makes it quite complicated," said Walheim. "But it's a great way to work with other nations and it's a great learning process."

According to the National Air and Space Association, the truss lays the foundation for a crossbeam that will stretch more than 350 feet. Nine additional truss segments will be linked on future missions to the centerpiece segment to form the finished structure. The finished truss will support almost an acre of solar panels and giant cooling radiators. Although the ISS already is a fully functional research complex with a single United States laboratory, the additional solar panels and radiators will provide the electricity and cooling necessary for Japanese and European laboratories to be attached to the station.

The truss segment carried to the station by Atlantis also included the first space railroad, called the Mobile Transporter, and a section of track that will span the length of the truss segment, once completed. The MT, when it is coupled with ISS's Canadian robotic arm, will allow the arm to ride up and down the length of the football-field-long finished truss. The rail system will allow the arm to be positioned wherever it may be needed along the truss for maintenance or assembly work.

Before the installation of the truss

and railway system, NASA's ground crew mounted the systems into the space ship several weeks before the April 8 launch date.

About a week before launch, all astronauts were required to spend a week away from home, where they went through a quarantine period. According to Rex, spouses had permission to visit, however, children under 16 were not permitted, because they have a higher tendency to colds and illnesses.

"The day of the launch was exhilarating," said Walheim. "But as soon as I walked onto the space launch pad with my crew, we were surprised how windy it was and were pretty certain that liftoff wouldn't occur."

Once all systems were checked, they learned less than five seconds before takeoff that their mission would happen.

"While we were lifting off, I carried a small mirror to reflect Florida's beach dropping by," said Walheim. "What a sight!"

"In eight and a half minutes, we went from zero to 17,500 miles per hour," continued Walheim. "The scariest part of the mission happened two minutes into the flight, when the rocket boosters detached themselves. We were surrounded by a fireball, but when the heat dropped everybody was able to breath a sigh of relief."

Once the commander located the ISS, the crew immediately initiated their mission of installing the truss and rail systems.

To set up the truss and the rail system, a total of four space walks were completed.

Walheim and his partner, Steve Smith, conducted two of the four historic space walks for the installation. Together, they bolted the truss segment in place. They also installed electrical converters, which will allow the station's arm to draw power through the S-Zero truss.

According to NASA, it was the first time the station's robotic arm was used to maneuver space walkers and



Photo by Eugene Chavez

Tech. Sgt. Petra Reeder and her two sons, Jeremy and Justin, get autographs from astronaut Lt. Col. Rex Walheim.

parts around the station.

"It was really weird for the first time to be floating around in space," said Walheim. "I felt like a gyro. It was confusing to find which way was 'up' and which was 'down.' Then I found the earth and all was better."

"While we were up there installing the equipment, we were right above the Nile River," said Walheim during his slide show. "I learned later that if I had looked hard enough, I could have spotted the pyramids."

Working with a crew of seven with a projected 10-day deadline, the space station required many 12-hour days with small amounts of scheduled sleep time.

"I remember we'd work for huge amounts of time and, out of nowhere, the commander would jump in and say 'It's now time to sleep,'" said Walheim. "And I always thought to myself, 'how could I? I'm in space'."

The Atlantis crew, consisting of Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Bloomfield, commander; Navy Commander Stephen Frick, pilot; Navy Capt. Lee Morin, Ellen Ochoa, Jerry Ross, Smith, and Walheim, were the first to visit with fellow stationed Expedition ISS crew members, Russian Commander Yuri

Onufrienko and flight engineers Dan Bursh and Carl Walz, who have both been aboard the complex since Dec. 2001.

We have 17 nations that are part of the international program, and they all contribute in various ways," said Walheim. "One of the main partners are the Russians, and they are mainly in charge of adding different modules to the station."

Once the station is completed, it should house about seven people.

According to Walheim, the importance of the international space station will be to conduct scientific research. Astronauts and cosmonauts will research life sciences ranging from crystal growth to new medicines.

Research will also look at how the human body adapts to space. Crews will continue to learn about combustion and how different materials deal with space. Finally, members will study the Earth through observations.

STS-110 Atlantis successfully landed Apr. 19, completing the 109th flight in American shuttle history.

For more information about current updates to the ISS, visit spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/.

Space warning squadron commemorated at Peterson museum

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force ended an era of theater missile defense and warning when the 11th Space Warning Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base was deactivated Sept. 24.

This history-making squadron was recognized in a ceremony Tuesday at Peterson's Air and Space Museum.

The 11th SWS became operational on March 5, 1995. They used infrared data from the constellation of Defense Support Program satellites to warn deployed troops in theater of short-range missiles, as well as significant other events around the globe.

Theater missile warning evolved as a tactical concept during Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. For the first time in history, U.S. personnel participated in a major land campaign where they faced missile threats from highly mobile and hard-to-find weapons systems.

This meant existing U.S. Strategic Missile

Warning units (which were created to spot long, hot-burning intercontinental ballistic missiles launched from the Soviet Union) were forced to perform a mission for which they were not originally designed — the detection and warning of shorter-burning, short-range missiles launched less than 1,000 kilometers from deployed forces.

Though these units did a commendable job at warning deployed forces, delays in reporting needed improvement. Political and military leaders saw the need for a better detection system with a dedicated theater role to solely and rapidly get information to deployed forces. They needed a dedicated surveillance system for theater missile defense.

As a result, the Attack and Launch Early Reporting to Theater system was established in 1992, growing from concept to initial operational capability in only three years.

Since 1995, ALERT has provided assured theater missile warning to the combat warfighter. With off-the-shelf computer technology, the 11th SWS provided near real-time surveillance and post-event analysis of

theater-class ballistic missile launches, such as SCUD missiles, to theater forces, Unified Commanders, and military leaders.

Through each contingency, ALERT evolved and adapted to the changing needs of the deployed warfighter. With each successive campaign, the unit developed new tactics, techniques, and procedures to refine and shorten the warning process.

When ALERT was deactivated, the theater missile warning torch was passed to the DSP follow-on, Space-Based Infrared System, 2nd Space Warning Squadron, Buckley AFB, to assume the nation's critical missile defense and warning mission, and to provide greater capability with modern equipment and enhanced space assets.

The museum exhibit consists of a crew console with dual overhead monitors. Buttons on the control keyboard activate video demonstrations.

A two-page unit history is framed and displayed on the console. Photographs of crewmembers, and 11th SWS organizational and mission signage are also part of the display.



FINAL OBSERVER
FOR THE YEAR

This is the final edition of the *Space Observer* for the year. The first edition for 2003 will be published Jan. 10.

Deadline for submissions will be 4:30 p.m. Jan. 2.

Happy Holidays from the *Space Observer* staff!

STRATEGIC MASTER
PLAN ON WEBSITE

The new Air Force Space Command Strategic Master Plan has been released and is accessible via the command's public Web site.

The plan, "Strategic Master Plan FY04 and Beyond," presents the AFSPC vision; outlines a strategy to implement this vision; and defines a 25-year plan, integrated across the AFSPC mission areas, to provide the space capabilities required to achieve the vision.

The plan can be found on the AFSPC public website at

<http://www.spacecom.af.mil/hqafspc/library/AFSPCPAOffice/Final%2004%20SMP--Signed!.pdf>.

OWC OUTREACH

2002 White House ornaments are for sale from the Officers' Wives' Club for \$15, and Pikes Peak Military Family Cookbooks for \$12. Call Sandy for more information at 535-8127.

HUNTING SEASON AT
THE ACADEMY

Hunting season will be in full swing at the academy in upcoming weeks. Elk season began Nov. 1 and will continue through Jan. 31. Deer season will be Thursday-Dec. 21 and Dec. 27-29.

In the interest of safety and efficiency, all hunters will be guided by members of the Division of Wildlife or personnel from Natural Resources.

Please contact the Natural Resources office at (719) 333-3308 with any questions.

BLACK HERITAGE
COMMITTEE FUNCTION

The Peterson Air Force Base Black Heritage Committee College Scholarship Fund is hosting an art exhibit fund raiser from 5:30-8:30 p.m. today at E-City Restaurant, 4659 Centennial Boulevard. Cost is \$5 per person.

For more information contact Fannie Fowler at 556-5870 or Yvette Telley at 556-4738 for tickets.

COMMISSARY
IMPROVEMENTS

Major shopper convenience and product display improvements began Sunday at the Commissary.

During the process, there may be some inconveniences, as it may take longer to stock all the frozen products in the new units.

Commissary improvements should be complete by mid-February.

A major promotion

The following Peterson complex captains were selected for promotion to major.

1st Space Control Squadron

Fauth, Rodney L. Jr.
Fowler, Christopher J.
Greenhouse, Baron V.
Hachtel, Ty D.
Krause, Steven A.
Lewis, Michael W.
Pertuit, Dwight W. Jr.
Smith, Hansford O.
Stocker, Dennis B.

11th Space Warning Squadron

Ten Haken, Ronald D.
Turner, Kerry B.

12th Space Warning Squadron

Gondol, John M.
Guerrero, Albert

2nd Space Warning Squadron

Cortright, Edward
Sherman, Roger A.
Holt, Jeffrey D.

21st Operations Group

Carlson, Kevin P.

21st Operations Support Squadron

Duda, John F. Jr.
Nuce, David R.
Schuetze, Jennifer K.

21st Space Wing

Cox, Timothy J.
Doucet, John L. III
German, Keith H.
Wolfe, Russell M.

4th Space Surveillance Squadron

Weller, Grant T.

544th Information Operations Group

Greenstein, Bryan D.

6th Space Warning Squadron

LeMay, Joseph R.

76th Space Control Squadron

Fahl, Mark A.
Schoen, Schuyler P.
84th Airlift Flight
Belmear, Kenneth J.

Detachment 4, AFOTEC

Hammock, Victor A.
Totton, William A. Jr.
Watson, Alexandria R.
Wolf, Timothy W.

NORAD/U.S. Space Command

Asuncion, Vanjohn A.
Butler, Danny L.
Creech, Ronald Lewis II
Gerhart, John F. Jr.
Mattioli, Roman F.
McCann, Tess M.
Riggles, William L.
Thomas, William G.
Treat, David W. Jr.
Tucker, Travis W.

Air Force Space Command

Anderson, Gary L.
Arnold, Lyle B.
Baker, Donald E. III
Boswell, Randy L.
Brooks, Jeffery L.
Davis, Jeffrey S.
Diamanti, Stan S.
Fillman, Richard H. Jr.
Frederick, Lorinda A.
Graham, Treia M.
Holloway, Donald Wayne
McDonald, Mark V.
Nep, Julie L.
Nolin, Christopher K.
O'Boyle, Shannon E.
Robinson, Matthew D.
Shoviak, Mark J.
Vloedman, David J.

Detachment 11, Space and Missile Systems Center

Hutcherson, Carl D.
McKenzie, Grant D.
Wiest, Todd E.

Chaplain (821st Air Base Group)

Bretz, Donald W.

810th Medical Operations Squadron

Morgan, Brenda J.
Garcia, Beth R.
Woods, John W.

Chapel Christmas Schedule

Dec. 24

Protestant -- Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m. Dec. 24.

Catholic

4:30 p.m. - Christmas Music
5 p.m. - Christmas Eve Mass

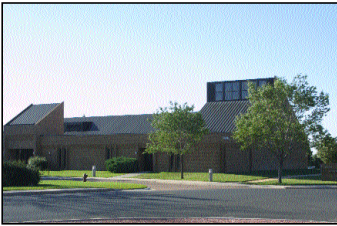
11:30 p.m. Christmas Music

Midnight - Christmas Vigil Mass

Dec. 25

9 a.m. - Christmas Mass

Jan. 1 - Mary, Mother of God Mass, 9 a.m.



**For more information- Call the chapel at 556-4442 for available chapel programs.



Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around the Peterson Complex are to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on base. The following entries are from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter:

***Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some Blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

Access denied - Dec. 11

A would-be contractor was attempting to obtain a contractor badge from Peterson's visitors center, when a check of the National Crime Information Center revealed that the crafty contractor was wanted in Denver County Court. He was denied access to the base and Denver authorities notified.

Wallet whacking – Dec. 12

A Security Forces patrol responded to the North Gate where there had been an accident. Seems a driver was so focused on finding her identification in her wallet that she lost focus on the fact she was driving – and rolled smack dab into the startled

pickup in front of her. For the entertainment she provided those at the gate, she was presented with a citation for careless driving.

Gate crashing -- Dec. 12

A gate sentry alerted the Security Forces that a government van had driven through the gate without being motioned to proceed. A patrol pounced on the vehicle. The driver, a military member from an unnamed installation 70 miles north of here and just east of Denver, was found to have a suspended license. The lackadaisical locomotor was detained, and later released to his first sergeant, who also drove the vehicle back to home station.

Fragrance fool -- Dec. 12

An AAFES detective notified Security Forces they were detaining a military member from another base for shoplifting. Seems the member had taken such a liking to the smell of two perfume fragrances that he whiffed two bottles worth \$192 into his pockets. The filching fellow was detained, his chain of command was notified and he was released to his supervisor.

911 hang-up #1 -- Dec. 12

Security Forces responded to a base housing unit when they received a 911 call

that hung up. They made contact with the military spouse, ensured everything was OK, and discovered she had accidentally pressed the 911 speed dial while holding the telephone.

Scrape & scam -- Dec. 13

Security Forces responded to the Commissary parking lot where a vehicle had been damaged, apparently by a hit & run creep. The silver SUV had been damaged on the lower right quarter panel.

Attack of the garage door – Dec. 13

Security Forces responded to a base housing unit where a contest between a moving vehicle and a partially closed garage door had taken place. Seems the driver was headed to the store, but didn't notice the garage was partially closed; the garage door attacked, resulting in damage to the SUV, the garage door, and the driver's pride. Security Forces took photos of the incident, and cautioned the driver to be cautious around irate garage doors.

911 hang-up #2 -- Dec. 13

Security Forces responded to yet another base housing unit when they received a 911 call that hung up. Upon arriving, they determined that one resident had purposefully called to request assistance when her husband had taken an unknown pink pill, and she was worried for his well-being. Turns out the pill was an over-the-counter medication, and he did not require any medical assistance. Security Forces instructed her to call again if she needed any further assistance.

Fisting fellows – Dec. 13

Security Forces responded to a work center where an altercation was occurring between two battling buddies. One of the dueling dudes was immediately apprehended for assault. The other was apprehended after a return from the USAFA emergency room. The boneheads were released to their supervisor.

Lost then found – Dec. 13

A voice recorder was found in the parking lot of AFSPC headquarters, and turned in to Security Forces. Anyone missing this or other items can contact Security Forces, who stores them in their found property locker.

How close can't I get? – Dec. 14

Security Forces responded to the housing area where an accident had occurred. Seems a driver was backing his truck, and didn't know how close he was to another car – so he chose to find out, and backed up until he hit it. For his curiosity, he was rewarded with a citation for improper backing.

911 medical response – Dec. 14

A Commissary employee called Security Forces to report an individual was complaining of chest pains. A patrol, the Fire Department, and an ambulance responded. The individual was transported to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

Alarming – Dec. 14

One of several this week, an alarm activated at the ARSPACE building. Seems this time an individual was leaving the building and evidently improperly carded

out. Security Forces arrived promptly at the scene, verified all was in order, and authenticated the status of the building was secure.

NOTE: *This week alone, Security Forces responded to 15 preventable alarm activations, mostly caused by human error or insecure doors. While they'll be working with those agencies that have recurring problems, we urge everyone to use proper alarm measures to avoid diluting the Security Forces from their vital duties with such erroneous responses.*

Court clown -- Dec. 15

A services member alerted the Security Forces of a dependent son who was violating Fitness Center safety guidance by hanging from the basketball hoops, and refusing to stop. When told to leave the facility, the hoop hooligan revealed he was also a dunk dunce by refusing that coaching as well. Security Forces responded and performed as referees, "tossing him from the game" by escorting him from the Fitness Center.

Visitor loses lunch -- Dec. 15

Security Forces responded to the Visitors Center parking lot where an unattended briefcase and lunch cooler were discovered. The packages were swept, with negative findings. The hungry visitor later came to the Visitors Center to retrieve his belongings, stating they likely fell from his truck as he was driving away.

*** If you have any information on a crime, report it to the 21st Security Forces Squadron at 556-4000.*

You're cordially invited

Event: 21 SW Annual Awards Banquet

Place: Peterson Enlisted Club

Time: 6 p.m. social hour and 7 p.m. dinner

Uniform: Mess dress or semi-formal for military and coat and tie for civilians

Menu: Chicken Duxelle, Rice Pilaf, Chef's Vegetables, Tossed Green Salad, Rolls and Butter, Chocolate Cake, Tea, and Coffee

Tickets go on sale Jan 03.
See First Sergeant for details



Lord visits SWA over Thanksgiving

By Master Sgt. Austin Carter
[Air Force Space Command Public Affairs](#)

General Lance Lord, commander of Air Force Space Command, spent Thanksgiving with family though he was 7,000 miles from home.

The general traveled to Southwest Asia Nov. 23-29 to visit some of his Air Force family — Air Expeditionary Force troops in the field. He went to get an overview of how space operations fit into the AEF structure.

“I spent a good portion of my life with our people doing their jobs at an in-place mission – ICBM and space-based operations — 24, 7, 365. So I thought it was important for me to visit the people who are part of our Air Expeditionary Force deployed in the Southwest Asia theater to get a look at how space is being integrated into the operational framework,” he said in a Dec. 4 interview. “I certainly wanted to see how it was integrated in the Combined Air Operations Center and make sure the space teams had everything they needed to support ongoing operations. Over the last year we’ve seen how space is a critical element in support of U.S. national objectives. Space capabilities are accepted, trusted and relied on. They want us; they like us; they want more of us.”

The general visited forces in Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

He returned, not only with a picture of space integration, but also with a profound regard for the enlisted and officers in the field and the job they are performing every day.

“What I was impressed with was the spirit, the

esprit de corps and the morale of the airmen under very severe circumstances – deployed, separated from their families,” he said. “They were really working well together. We saw combinations of active, Guard and Reserve working side by side with each other. Even though they each wanted to go home when it was time, while at their deployed location, no one was wishing they were somewhere else.”

Wherever he found AFSPC troops, he said, he saw them performing their jobs with verve and confidence with other services and international host nationals, as well.

“They were like every other ‘hero’ in the theater,” he said. “They were doing their job, working in their skills for a deployed configuration. The same great job they were doing here, they’re doing there. Whether they’re enlisted or officer, they’re all doing the things we expect of them. We not only have in-place missions where we perform critical jobs ... we also have people from those missions who are critical and vital for deployment as well. We have a lot of heroes in a lot of places.”

Morale was extraordinarily strong among the troops, added Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Kriete, AFSPC command chief, who accompanied the general on the tour.

“They were very mission-focused,” Kriete said. “They’re also starting to understand the AEF construct better.”

“Whether they’re space weapons officers, first sergeants, security forces or any other job in AFSPC, being involved in AEF is as much a part of the job as the day-to-day mission,” the general said.

“Deployments are part of our business; it’s part



Photo by by Tech. Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Gen. Lance Lord, Air Force Space Command Commander, visits with airmen from the 320th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Nov. 26 during his visit at a forward deployed location.

of the Air Force construct,” Lord said. “[AEF] is part of who we are as a command and in the Air Force. An expeditionary mindset is something we have to adopt. This is the kind of tempo we’re going to live with in the future. We have to keep our edge to make sure we’re ready to do whatever we’re called to do.”

But, he concluded, after touring the outposts of Southwest Asia where AFSPC members are living and working, there were no doubts in his mind about the ability of those in the command to thrive in that tempo.

“This expeditionary business is really growing on us, not only on the Air Force, but certainly on Air Force Space Command,” he said. “While continuing our great day-to-day space and missile mission, we’re doing AEF better and better, and our people are on the front lines.”



A T Y O U R S E R V I C E

Local artists win command contest

By Tech. Sgt. Gino Mattorano
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Peterson artists cleaned up at the Air Force Space Command Artist/Craftsman/Photography Competition Dec. 13.

The annual competition recognizes outstanding artistic creations by members of the military community.

“The goal of the program is to recognize the creativity and artistic talents of our participants in Air Force skills development centers,” said Susan Larsen, AFSPC family and community programs specialist. “We had entries from the Peterson Complex, Buckley [Air Force Base, Colo.] and Malmstrom [Air Force Base, Mont.], but we’re hoping to generate more entries from the other Air Force Space Command bases.”

Artists and photographers competed in the adult category, or competitors 17 and younger competed in the youth category.



First place Fine Art entry by Leah Andrews, 21st Services Squadron.

This year’s art display and awards reception was hosted by Peterson’s Community Activities Center.

“This was a great opportunity for us to showcase our facility and the great

programs we offer,” said Deb Connor, Peterson Community Activities Center Director. “We were very pleased with the entries we received and we’re looking forward to promoting next year’s competition.”

Competition judges were selected from professionals in the local community and here at Peterson, according to Connor.

All first and second place winners at command level will compete at the Air Force-level competition in January in San Antonio. Winners of the Air Force competition will receive a cash award and a certificate.

“I’m really looking forward to the Air Force competition,” said Leah Andrews, 21st Services Squadron. “This is the first competition I’ve entered, so I was especially happy to win. Artwork is a good stress relief. It’s great to see people doing creative things while our country is going through these difficult times.”

Peterson winners

Adult Fine Art

First Place - Leah Andrews, 21st Services Squadron
Second Place - 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout, 21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Adult Textile Art

First Place -- Sandy Lasher, Detachment 4, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center

Adult Multicraft/Pattern Art

First Place - Sandy Lasher

Youth Fine Art

First Place -- Jessica Macklon
Second Place -- Chris Macklon

Youth Multicraft/Pattern Art

First Place -- Rachael Welton
Monochrome Prints - Military Life
First Place -- Senior Airman Steve

Teeple, 21st Operations Support Squadron

Monochrome Prints - People

First Place -- Senior Airman Steve Teeple

Monochrome Prints - Nature/Scenic

First Place -- Senior Airman Steve Teeple

Digital Image - Nature/Scenic

First Place -- Staff Sgt. Ken Bergman, AFSPC Visual Information Directorate

Digital Image - Military Life

First Place -- Staff Sgt. Ken Bergman

Digital Image - Creative Effects

First Place - Staff Sgt. Ken Bergman
Digital Image - People
First Place - Senior Airman Michael Steed, AFSPC/VI

SERVICES CALENDARS

At the Officers’ Club



December 31 -- New Year’s Eve gala, 6 p.m., dinner is at 7:30 p.m., champagne at midnight, and breakfast at 1 a.m. Reservations are required. Call 574-4100.

Save with coupons for breakfast, Sunday brunch, and Saturday night dinner in the Dec. Good Stuff.

At the Enlisted Club



Monday-Friday -- Enjoy our lunch buffet 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Save \$2.50 off the cost of the buffet with the Good Stuff coupon.

The Enlisted Club will be closed Dec. 22-Jan. 1. We will reopen Jan. 2.

At Outdoor Recreation



December 20-22 -- Durango Mountain Resort. The cost is \$250 per person and includes transportation, lodging and lift tickets.

This Week

Monday

■ Mothers on the Move exercise group. Call the Family Advocacy nurse at 556-8943 for details.

Tuesday

■ Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m., in the Family Support Center, Building 350, Room 1016. Highlights sponsor responsibilities and required for all sponsors of military and civilian employees. This class will also be held Dec. 31.

Thursday

■ Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m., Building 350, Room 1016. A brief overview of information on the local job market and how the FSC can help your job search.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers’ Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Aragon Menu Line 556-4782
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

This Week

Services is all ears



Here’s your chance to tell us what you think about Air Force Services. Watch your mailbox for the 2003 Customer Feedback Survey. Complete and return it in the envelope provided. Your comments make a difference ... because we’re listening!

Happy Holidays



Photos by Joe Fischer

A nativity scene in base housing celebrates Christ's birth and placement in a manger. The great star shines above Him, symbolically leading the wise men to Bethlehem.

The history of Christmas

Stories by Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Christmas, the celebration of the birth of the Christ child, is observed each year on December 25 with many customs and traditions.

Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity in A.D. 360 after seeing a vision of a cross of light against the sun with a sign reading, "By this sign shall you conquer." He later conquered Rome and declared December 25 Christmas Day, a day to celebrate the birth of Christ. In A.D. 567, the Council of Tours declared the twelve days of Christmas from December 25 to January 6, Epiphany, which is the day the three wise men proved the divine nature of Christ to the Gentiles.

According to the Bible, during the time when Caesar Augustus ruled Rome, and King Herod governed Israel, Joseph and Mary lived in the village Nazareth. The carpenter Joseph chose the virgin Mary to be his wife. Later, Mary was visited by an angel and told she would be the virgin mother of Jesus, Son of God.

At this time, the emperor decreed that all people were to register for a new tax in the land of their birth. Joseph led Mary, who was heavy with child and riding on a donkey, to the city of Bethlehem. By the time they got there, all the inns were full and Mary's time of birth was approaching. An innkeeper took pity on the couple and offered them a place to sleep in a stable. Joseph cleaned the stable and prepared it for Jesus' birth.

When Jesus was born, a bright star appeared above Bethlehem, and an angel appeared to the shepherds tending their flocks. The angel said, "Fear not, for I bring you tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day in Bethlehem a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." The angel told the shepherds they could find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Then, many angels appeared filling the sky and sang "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men."

When the angels departed, the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem to find the Christ child.

In the east, three wise men saw the star over Bethlehem and knew it to be a sign of the birth of the King of the Jews. The three kings — Caspar, King of Tarsus, the Land of Myrrh; Melchior, leader of Arabia, the Land of gold; and Balthazar, King of Saba in Ethiopia, the Land of Frankincense — traveled many days and brought gifts to Jesus. Each king brought the gift of his land: gold symbolizing kingship, frankincense showed godliness, and myrrh a painful death. Jesus offered in return charity and spiritual riches for gold, faith for incense, and truth and meekness for myrrh. The Magi continued to celebrate the birth of Christ every year until their deaths.

Today, we celebrate Christmas with many customs and traditions from different lands such as the Christmas tree, stockings, gifts, caroling, feasts, and Santa Claus.



Base housing residents decorate their homes and lawns with festive holiday decorations for the season. Team Pete didn't hold back this year when it came to holiday spirit.

New Year's festivities' ancient origins

People in every country have their own customs and traditions for New Year's celebrations, but the celebration of the new year is not new.

The oldest of holidays, New Year's celebrations were observed in ancient Babylon as long as 4,000 years ago, and they may have even been celebrated by others before then.

The actual date a culture celebrated its new year was usually dependent on an equinox, new moon, or harvest, that is, it had astronomical or agricultural significance.

The Babylonians celebrated the new year with eleven days of festivities, usually around March 25, the day of the vernal equinox, on the modern calendar. To the Babylonians, this date was an obvious choice because it was the beginning of spring, a time of rebirth and renewal. The festivities included many of the things we do now, only they were much more extreme

in their celebrations.

New Year's resolutions also began with the Babylonians. Today we may think of turning over a new leaf by not smoking or losing weight, but ancient people wiped their slate clean by returning borrowed items.

Today, New Year's is celebrated on January 1, with traditional foods and local customs, but it has only been so in the Western world for about 400 years.

The Romans declared January 1 the day of the new year in 153 B.C., but the early Catholic Church wasn't quick to accept the practice. It was condemned as pagan throughout the Middle Ages, but finally became popular enough for the church to allow its observance.

The church dedicated the day to Christ and allowed its celebration in His name, and the tradition lives on.

Celebrating the festival of Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a relatively new festival observed from December 26-January 1, celebrating the culture and history of the African-American people.

Dr. Maulana Karenga created this seven-day festival in 1966, during a time of civil rights struggles, to bring African-Americans together. He modeled the festival after the first fruit-harvest festivals celebrated in Africa. The name Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili phrase for first fruit. The characteristics of the first fruit festivals inspired Karenga to develop the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa, or Nguzo Saba.

The Seven Principles are:

Umoja (oo-MOH-jah): unity — Success starts with unity; unity of family, community, nation, and race.

Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-goo-LEE-ah): self-determination — To be responsible for ourselves, to create your own destiny.

Ujima (oo-JEE-mah): collective work and responsibility — To build and maintain your community together, to work together to help one another within your community.

Ujamaa (oo-jah-MAH): collective economics — To build, maintain, and support our own stores, establish-

ments, and businesses.

Nia (NEE-ah): purpose — To restore African American people to their traditional greatness, to be responsible to Those Who Came Before (ancestors) and to Those Who Will Follow (descendants).

Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah): creativity — Using creativity and imagination to make your communities better than what you inherited.

Imani (ee-MAH-nee): faith — Believing in people, families, educators, leaders, and the righteousness of the African American struggle.

Along with the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa, there are also seven symbols. The first symbol is a mat of fabric, raffia, or paper. All other holiday symbols rest upon it. The mat represents a foundation, the experiences, sacrifices, and achievements of one's ancestors.

The next symbol is the unity cup. The unity cup is filled with water, juice, or wine and, before the cup is passed for each person to drink from, some is poured out in honor of one's ancestors.

The third symbol is the crop, the result of the harvest. Fruits and vegetables are laid out on the mat and are later eaten to honor those whose work made

the harvest possible.

The next symbol is the candleholder. Called the Kinara, this candleholder represents one's ancestors and holds the seven candles of the Nguzo Saba. It is also placed on the mat.

The fifth symbol is the candle. Each of the seven candles symbolizes one of the Seven Principles. There are three red, three green, and one black candle, which are the colors of the African flag, in the Kinara.

The next symbol is the corn. Corn represents the future of the family. For each child in the family, one ear of corn is placed on the mat. If the family has no children, one ear is placed on the mat to symbolize the children in the community.

The last symbol of Kwanzaa is the gift. Kwanzaa gifts are meant to better people. Gifts to children should include books or educational items. Another gift given to children should be the heritage symbol. This gift should remind the child of his ancestors and things past, but also of his future.

Since Kwanzaa is a relatively new celebration, families have an opportunity to create traditions, crafts, and displays of their own to personalize this festival of culture.



Chanukah

The Festival of Lights

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, is a holiday celebrated by Jews on the 25th day of the Hebrew month Kislev, which usually falls sometime between the end of November and the end of December on the western calendar.

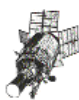
This celebration is to commemorate a miracle that happened in an ancient Judean temple more than 2,300 years ago.

According to the Talmud, which is a written outline of the oral explanations of the Jewish holy book, the Torah, the Syrians defiled the Jewish temple in Judea by order of their king, Antiochus. After three years of war, Judah Maccabee and his army reclaimed the temple and drove the Syrians out of Israel. On the 25th day of Kislev, the temple was clean, and ready to be rededicated. In order for this to happen, the N'er Tamid, an eternal light present at every Jewish temple, had to be relit. Once lit, this light should never be extinguished. The Maccabees searched and could find only one jar of oil with the high priest's seal. This jar should have only been enough for one day but, miraculously, it burned for eight days. These are the eight days of Chanukah.

Jews celebrate Chanukah with praise and thanksgiving. During this time, there are no sermons read, and no fasting. Each night, they light the candles of the Menorah to remind them of the victory over the Syrians and the miracle of the oil.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander, Rachel Welton and Ian Vitanovec, both family members, and Chief Master Sgt. Vance Clarke, Command Chief Master Sergeant, throw the candy cane switch to light the base Holiday Tree Dec. 6.



Airman’s Attic – there for you

By Tech. Sgt.
Michael Phillips
[21st Space Wing Public Affairs](#)

Did you ever wonder what to do with all the old useful things, from civilian or military clothing to major appliances? Some can be donated to the Salvation Army and other related organizations, but how about giving back to your military community? You can donate these to airmen in need.

That’s why the volunteers at the Airman’s Attic are there to help. The Airman’s Attic is primarily for E-4s and below but they will help anyone in need. They also extend services to airmen from Schriever Air Force Base and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station.

“Our main focus is to help the junior enlisted ranks, who are just beginning to start families,” said volunteer Airman 1st Class Lisa Hunter. “We understand that a guaranteed job doesn’t include a great amount of money.”

“If we have what you need, it’s yours,” said Hunter. “If we don’t have it, we can put you on our ‘wish list,’ which is on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.”

The Airman’s Attic is

located in the basement of Dormitory 1156. The hours of operation are Monday through Wednesday, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Attic is currently in need of winter coats and outer-garments.

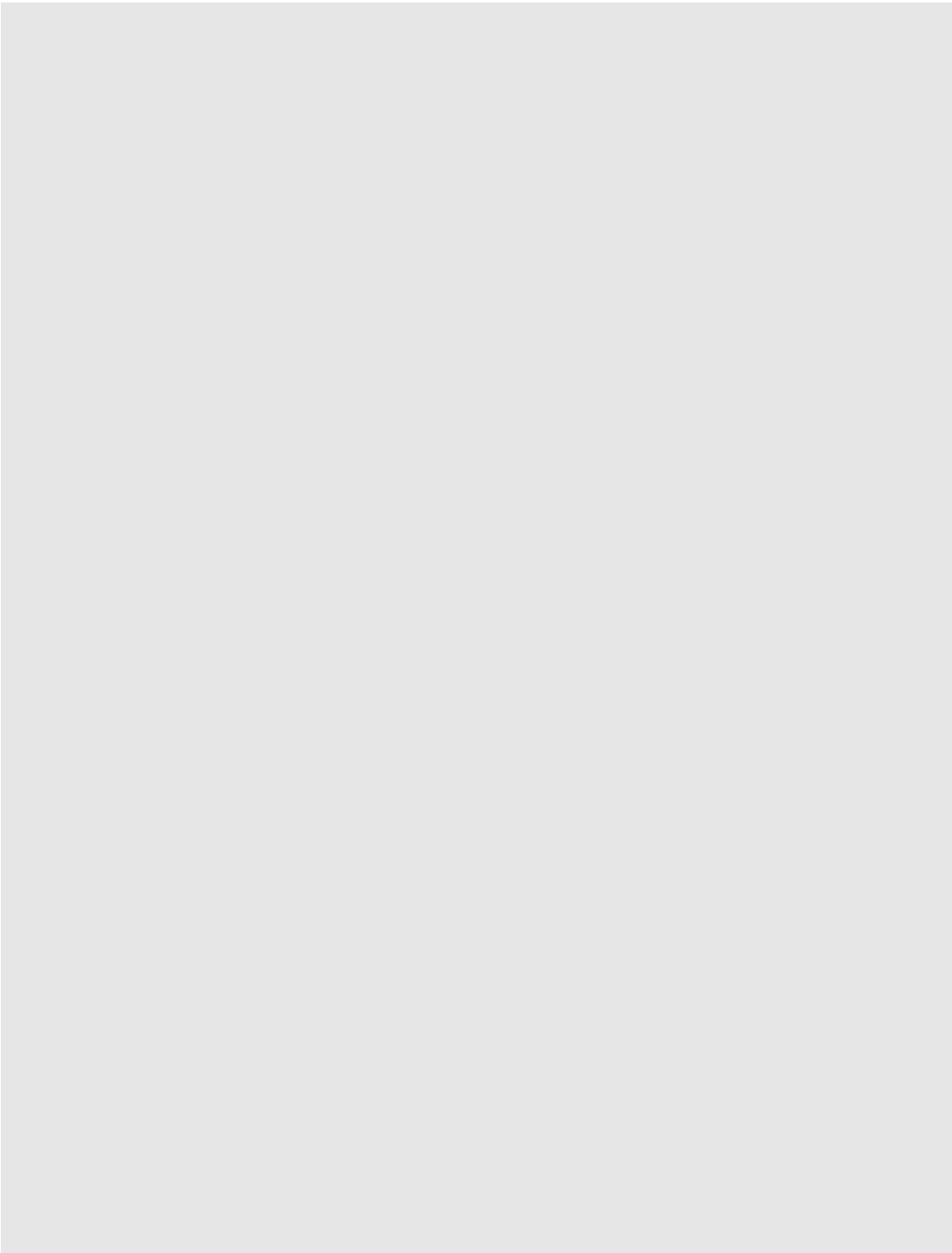
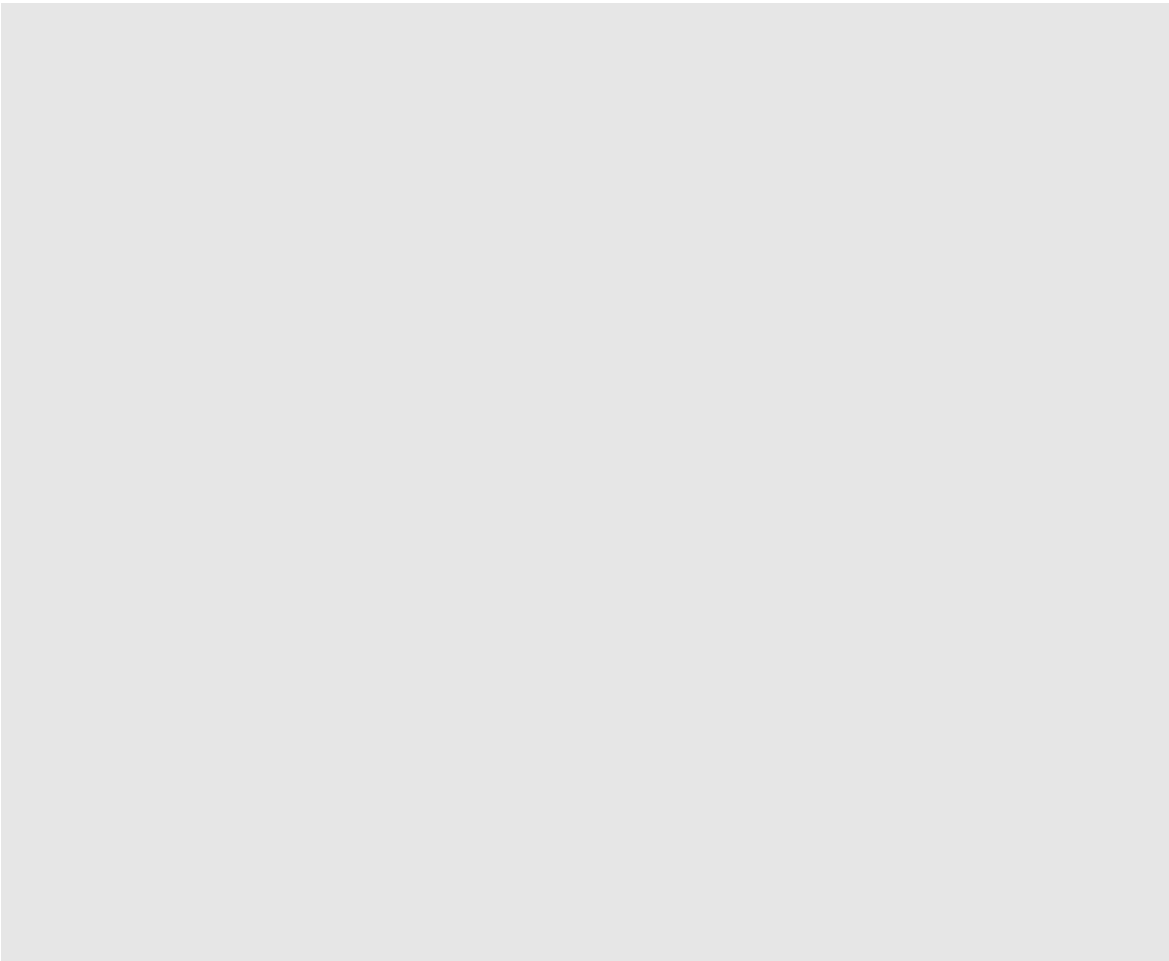
“If you have a large item to donate, but can’t get it to us, we will come to you to pick it up,” Hunter said. “Contact one of our volunteers at 556-3215, or Master Sgt. Matt Ooley, Program Director, at 556-4657. Leave us a voice mail, including the needed information and a contact number, and we’ll get back to you. We’ll take the unneeded items off your hands, and put them in the hands that need them.

“Even if you don’t have anything to donate at this time, but are still interested in helping us; contact us, or stop by,” Hunter said. “We can always use extra help, especially those with trucks and trailers, who can help pick up donations.

“We’ve received a lot of support from the Peterson community in the past,” she added. “We’d like to thank them for helping us help others.”



Happy Holidays from the **Space Observer** staff.
We’ll be back next year!



Peak Performer



Name: Staff Sgt. Owen (Nat) Olsen
Unit: 21st Operations Group
Duty Title: NCOIC, Space Control Technical Documentation and Standardization
Time in Service: 7 years, 11 months
Hometown: Winter Haven, Fla.
Off-duty Interests: Bodybuilding and Football
Why did you join the Air Force? I was looking for something new and entertaining.

Favorite part of your job: Being able to provide Space Control System expertise to the Geographically Separated Units and operators around the world.

What inspires you to do what you do? Seeking perfection in everything that I do.

What goals do you have: Earn a Bachelor of Science degree in acquisition management, become a professional body builder, and set an example for future Air Force members who want to have an athletic career while being the best at their military commitment.



Good attitudes foster success

Lt. Col. Reggie E. Selby
21st Contracting Squadron Commander

It doesn't matter how you slice it, there is a direct relationship between success and our attitudes. I would say attitude is more important than our intelligence, education, technical capability, or even our hard work.

A study of Fortune 500 executives found that 94 percent of all the executives surveyed attributed their success more to attitude than any other factor. Our attitude is the main ingredient that determines whether we will live our dreams. Thomas Jefferson said, "Nothing on earth can stop the man with the right attitude from achieving his goal. Nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong attitude."

It has been said, "Your attitude determines your attitude." Do we actually believe this is true? I have been teaching my kids for years that their attitudes are small things that make big differences. How much difference can an attitude really make? I say it can make the world of difference. The beauty of it is, we get to choose what our attitude will be. It is all within our control.

Psychologist-philosopher William James said, "The greatest discovery of my generation is that people can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind."

There is a rather humorous story, regarding a comment made by President Abraham Lincoln, that shows the relationship between our choices and the effect on who we are. An adviser to Lincoln recommended a certain person for a cabinet position, but Lincoln balked at the suggestion. He said, "I don't like the man's face." "But sir," said the adviser, "He can't be held responsible for his face." Lincoln replied, "Every man over forty is responsible for his face." Who you are and how you think can be read in your face.

When we look in a mirror, if we see a sour expression, we are seeing the outward expression of our attitudes. The choices we have made up to now have come as a result of our attitudes. Our attitudes determine our actions, and our actions determine our accomplishments.

Remember, our attitudes are our choice. A healthy attitude is contagious, but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier.





HAWC celebrates Twelve Days of Fitness

December is Fitness Improvement Month and, in keeping with the Christmas spirit, the Health and Wellness Center is offering 12 steps for a Merry Fitness ... er, Christmas.

On the first day of fitness: contact the HAWC for a personal wellness assessment.



On the second day of fitness: Are you familiar with the Air Force WarFit Program? Check it out online at www.peterson.af.mil/hawc under "Fitness" to view more information on this program.

On the third day of fitness:

Looking for a gift from the heart? Give the gift of fitness this season, and encourage a loved one to get started on an exercise program by getting them a personal trainer for motivation and guidance.



On the fourth day of fitness: Don't want to gain the average seven pounds over the holidays? Join the campaign to maintain. Stop by the Health and Wellness Center for ideas

to commit to maintain your weight.

On the fifth day of fitness: Are you feeling the hustle and bustle of the season? The fitness center is now offering yoga classes in the new aerobics room. Come unwind and increase your flexibility, balance, and strength.

On the sixth day of fitness: Caught up in the shopping, decorating, and preparing for the holidays? Take time for yourself, visit the HAWC to slow down and get a massage in the relaxation room.

On the seventh day of fitness:



Are you overcome by the events of the season and not getting to the fitness center? Work out at home. The HAWC has an extensive video library in which all DoD affiliates can check out fitness videos and home strength equipment for aerobic fitness, strength conditioning, and injury prevention.

On the eighth day of fitness: Going out of town? Take your exercise routine on the road by attending the dynaband

strength training workshop Jan. 8. The HAWC will provide the instruction and the equipment – a New Year's present just for you!

On the ninth day of fitness: Ready to revitalize your exercise program for 2002?



Start those New Year's resolutions by trying the "Intro to Spinning" Class.

On the tenth day of fitness: Thinking winter wonderland? Stop by the HAWC for a

packet on exercising in the cold ski conditioning tips.



On the eleventh day of fitness: Want to improve your score on the muscular assessment? Look for a special "Women on Weights" workshop in 2002.

On the twelfth day of fitness: The Health and Wellness Center and Fitness Center Staff wish you and your family a healthy, happy holiday season! (*Information courtesy Peterson HAWC*)

